

**CLAIMS**

1. A locking mechanism operable to restrict unauthorised access to a structure such as a house, the locking mechanism being operable to permit external access, by means of at least two remote control devices operable from outside the structure, one of the remote control devices being arranged for use by an occupant of the structure and another of the remote control devices being arranged for use by an authorised official such as a police officer, fire officer or safety officer (e.g. doctor, nurse, paramedic or ambulance personnel).
2. A locking mechanism as claimed in Claim 1, associated with at least one internal safety device, for example a smoke detector or panic button, the locking mechanism being such that if the safety device is activated, this makes the locking mechanism susceptible to an entry signal from an associated external operating device.
3. A locking mechanism as claimed in Claim 2, such that if a smoke detector within a house is operated, then this will put the locking mechanism into a condition in which an operating device specifically allocated to fire officers will enable a fire officer to gain access to the house.
4. A locking mechanism as claimed in Claim 2 or Claim 3, such that if a panic button is activated within a house, a doctor, nurse, paramedic or the like can gain access.
5. A locking mechanism as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which at least one of the remote control devices comprises a fob.
6. A locking mechanism constructed and arranged substantially as herein described, with reference to the accompanying drawings.

7. A structure when fitted with a locking mechanism as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.